

Clearing Up a Public Nuisance

The Department of Planning and Land Use's Code Enforcement Division recently completed the cleanup of a dangerous public nuisance in Chula Vista after two years of trying to work with the property owner.

Code Enforcement officers initially responded to complaints from neighbors about trash and junk at the property at 3184 Lynndale Place in the unincorporated area of Chula Vista in July 2009. However, when officers inspected the property, they not only found piles of trash, including trashed furniture, scrap wood and metal, old carpet, tarps strewn about, they also discovered a garage on the property had been converted without permits into three illegally occupied accessory buildings. The owner was issued administrative warnings to clean up and vacate the buildings, but was later fined when she failed to comply.

In March, 2010, the property owner was badly injured when her main house was lit ablaze by a candle after her utilities were turned off.

Once the owner recovered, code enforcement once again tried to help her and her family clean up her site, but the family was only able to complete about 5 percent of the total cleanup.

In July 2011, the County started a public cleanup of the property under the Public Nuisance Abatement Program to protect neighbors. A private contractor hired to do the cleanup completed the job in August.

